



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
WASHINGTON, DC

28 AUG 2003

Office of the Assistant Secretary

**SAF/IEI**  
**1665 Air Force Pentagon**  
**Washington DC 20330-1665**

**The Honorable Duncan L. Hunter**  
**Chairman, Committee on Armed Services**  
**United States House of Representatives**  
**Washington DC 20515-6035**

**Dear Mr. Chairman**

Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 2811, this letter is to notify you that I have approved an \$18.1M electrical distribution repair by replacement project at Eielson AFB, AK. The Air Force is currently working to identify funds in the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) appropriation for this project.

This project replaces the existing main electrical distribution bus with three 10MW prefabricated substations with bus/switchgear equipment enclosures rated for use in the subarctic. Generated power is currently tied into a 1,200 amp main bus inside the power plant for distribution to the grid. The bus routinely sees 900+ amps as a steady state requirement being drawn across it. Standard industry practice is to have twice the rated capacity of the normal steady state load. Under existing circumstances, Eielson AFB is exceeding this practice by over 50% due to current load requirements. Exceeding this standard makes the bus susceptible to absolute failure. If this project is not completed, the main bus will remain overloaded making it vulnerable to a catastrophic failure. This single point failure node will remain a significant risk to the entire physical plant of Eielson AFB.

We have chosen to accomplish this project under the authority of 10 U.S.C. § 2811. The work is classified as repair and the use of operation and maintenance funds provides the flexibility to plan the work with minimum disruption to operations while balancing our operation and maintenance and military construction programs.

A similar letter has been sent to the Ranking Minority Member of your Committee.

Sincerely

**FRED W. KUHN**  
**Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force**  
**(Installations)**